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Remarks by The Honorable Fred Gregory
NASA Deputy Administrator
Goddard Memorial Trophy Presentation
Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.

Thank you Jeff (Jeff Morrow, President National Space Club) for that gracious introduction and good evening every one.

I am honored to represent Administrator Sean O'Keefe tonight at this prestigious event, and to accept on behalf of NASA and the families of the courageous STS-107 astronauts the Goddard Memorial Trophy.

I should add that Mr. O'Keefe is in New York City this evening at the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation's annual dinner, where he will express NASA's appreciation for the Foundation's generous donation of education bonds for the Columbia astronaut's children. He regrets not being able to be here tonight.

As Jeff mentioned, the citation on this year's Goddard Memorial Trophy offers our community's profound thanks to the STS-107 astronauts "for reminding the Nation and the world on their ambitious Space Shuttle science research mission that great lives are defined by great purposes." The citation goes on to say "the courageous *Columbia* astronauts will be forever remembered for their joyful and determined pursuit of knowledge on behalf of all humanity."

Joy and determination. These are indeed the characteristics that vividly stand out as we honor the seven remarkable crewmembers of STS-107.

Rick Husband, Willie McCool, Mike Anderson, Dave Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, and Ilan Ramon now join the select company of 31 other space travelers who have received the Goddard Memorial trophy.

On their 16-day mission of exploration and discovery, this "dream team" of astronauts functioned at the top of their game, working nonstop in high spirits to gain knowledge on behalf of all humanity. Commander Rick Husband said it best during the mission, "This crew has performed marvelously," he told Mission Control. "I really love seeing a team come together."

There is so much about these heroes to remember and treasure.

Dave Brown, who encouraged the students of his alma mater, William and Mary, to have "a big vision, accept the risks and persistent in pursuit of goals," demonstrated these qualities throughout his life. On STS-107 this explorer who was the Navy's flight surgeon of the year and who then excelled as a pilot, was excited to view the experiment involving tiny "flame balls" of burning hydrogen and methane, which lasted well beyond expectations. He decided each flame ball had a personality and deserved a name of its own.

Mike Anderson, an accomplished Air Force pilot and scientist, whose high school science teacher said was "one of those kids you had to use a shoehorn to get out of the lab," threw himself into the work of tending the 80 experiments onboard Columbia. "A lot of what we're doing now is really in preparation for future flights aboard the space station," Mike told Mission Control. "Once these experiments are fully developed, they'll reside aboard the space station, and the scientists will have years to conduct the experiments we're trying to do here in a relatively short period of time."

Laurel Clark, who was both a submarine medical officer and flight surgeon, took special delight in taking on new challenges, whether it was learning to fly airplanes, to parachute, scuba dive and work in weightlessness. Her favorite quote expressed her outlook on life. "A ship in harbor is safe, but that's not what ships are for." During the mission, she took some time off from her work to email her family and friends. "Hello from above our magnificent planet Earth," she wrote. "The perspective is truly awe-inspiring. This is a terrific mission and we are very busy doing science round the clock. I have seen some incredible sights: lightning spreading over the Pacific, the aurora australis lighting up the entire visible horizon with the city glow of Australia below, the vast plains of Africa and the dunes on Cape horn, a crescent moon setting over the limb of our blue planet," she wrote. "I feel blessed to be here representing our country and carrying out the research of scientists around the world," Laurel added. We, of course, were blessed to call Laurel Clark one of NASA's own.

The same can be said for Kalpana Chawla, the native of Karnal, India who inspired her country and the world on two Space Shuttle missions. When she first flew into space in 1997, over a thousand youth ran through the streets of Karnal with signs that read, "Kalpana is our pride and Kalpana is our golden girl." On this mission, it was this five-foot tall dynamo who bid her crewmates to share with her the joyous sight of the whole Earth and sky being reflected in the retina of her eye.

Ilan Ramon, the fighter pilot turned scientist, was particularly interested in viewing his ancient homeland from space. "The world looks marvelous from up here, so peaceful, so wonderful and so fragile," he said. Throughout Columbia's mission, Ilan worked hard on the Mediterranean dust experiment, a scientific endeavor that involved cooperation from both Israeli and Arab scientists. He recognized that people of different cultures working together could do marvelous things. He also recognized the symbolic importance of his participation on the mission, telling an interviewer, "As the son of a Holocaust survivor, I carry on the suffering of that generation, and I'm kind of proof that despite all the horror they went through, we're going forward."

Willie McCool, the outstanding Naval Academy student and cross-country athlete, was also a person who was constantly going forward. Described by his classmates as representing an extremely rare confluence of brains, leadership, toughness, athleticism and modesty, pilot McCool reported back from Columbia, "I can't describe the overwhelming sense of jubilation I feel up here." He loved his vantage point from the flight deck, where he said he would "soak up all the sun rises and sunsets, the moonrises and moonsets, seeing the Himalayan range, the Great Barrier Reef—it's phenomenal."

The commander of this mission, Rick Husband, grew up in Amarillo, Texas, dreaming of becoming an astronaut from the time he watched our Mercury astronauts ascend to the heavens. Throughout the NASA family, Rick was prized for his extraordinary dedication to his work, admired for turning every one he met into a new-found friend, and universally respected for the quiet and effective way in which he expressed his strongly held convictions. For Rick Husband, doing the right thing meant much more than having the right stuff. That's the way he conducted himself on this mission, helping to forge Columbia's crew into a magnificent team.

Friends, Robert Goddard, the great pioneer whose backyard experiments helped pave the way for spaceflight, could never in his wildest imagination have predicted the sophisticated science that the Columbia crewmembers so joyfully conducted.

I am absolutely certain, that he would have recognized Rick Husband, Willie McCool, Mike Anderson, Dave Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, and Ilan Ramon as kindred spirits, as men and women of enormous character, and as fellow trailblazers in the unending quest to explore new horizons. It is with tremendous appreciation for the enduring contributions of these remarkable explorers that I accept on NASA's and their families' behalf the Goddard Memorial Trophy. Thank you very much.

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